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SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—" ఆ కంట్రాక్టరు పేరు ఏమిటండి ? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Notice, please."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" ఈ పని ప్రారంభించటానికే ఎంతో ఆలస్యమయింది. అట్లా ఆలస్యము కావటానికి కారణమేమో, ప్రభుత్వంవారు విచారిస్తారా ? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I have already told the House when the work was begun and when it will be completed."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" The question has not been answered, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" In that case, the hon. Member may give notice of a fresh question."

Alleged illegal procurement of paddy.

* 61 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have preferred any appeal against the judgment referred to in starred question No. 93 answered on 16th July 1952;

(*b*) if no appeal has been preferred by the Government, how many officials were found to be responsible for the illegal procurement, by the Sub-Court, in that case; and

(*c*) whether any action has been taken against the officials for the illegal procurement; and if so, the nature of the action and results thereof?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) The court has found the procurement made from the pattadar illegal and hence awarded damages to the pattadar. The court has not found any particular officer or officers responsible for the procurement.

" (*c*) The Government have directed the Collector of Tiruchirappalli to take disciplinary action against the officers concerned. The Collector is taking necessary action."

SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR :—" May I know whether the paddy was returned to the pattadar and if so, when? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not have the materials here to answer that question."

SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU :—" Sir, there are complaints from all over the State about cases of illegal procurement. Will the Government order an enquiry in all such cases and where they are satisfied as to their correctness, will they order withdrawal of prosecutions? "

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The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The main question refers to a particular case which went up before a Subordinate Judge, but the supplementary question is a general question and I am afraid I cannot answer that off-hand."

Sri G. LATCHANNA :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that some prosecutions regarding procurement are still pending? Will the Government consider the desirability of withdrawing such cases? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The main question refers to a civil suit which went on in a Civil Court. The hon. Member Sri Latchanna is referring to prosecutions in general. It is a different matter altogether and it does not arise out of the main question."

Sri R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" What was the amount spent on this litigation? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sorry I shall have to refer to the decree copy and then only say what the amount is. It is only the scheduled fees payable to the Government Pleader and the costs awarded to the plaintiff, which we have to pay."

Sri S. VEMIAH :—" May I know when the Collector was directed to take disciplinary action against the officials in the matter? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" About November 1952."

Sri P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR :—" May I know against how many officials the Government have directed disciplinary proceedings to be taken and whether those officials include any Gazetted Officers? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have asked the Collector to fix the responsibility on the particular officers. The judgment does not pronounce whether any particular officer was responsible. That is why the Collector has been asked to make an enquiry and fix the responsibility on the particular officer or officers."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know on what grounds the procurement was held illegal by the Sub-Court? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The ground was that the notice of demand served on the pattadar was irregular."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Does the reference to the Collector to fix the responsibility include the responsibility for the recovery of the costs already incurred by the Government on account of the action of the officers? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It includes that also."